

CLAIMS

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- Sub A
1. An apparatus comprising a video signal processing system for producing an output signal suitable for coupling to a display device to produce a displayed image, the video processing system having a blocking system which prevents viewing or recording of programs which exceed ratings, spending, and/or view time limits set by a supervisor who has entered a password accepted by the control system, an override system for entering instructions to temporarily override ratings, spending, and/or view time limits, and/or to permit specific programs to be viewed, and a conflict resolution system for resolving conflicts between or among multiple instructions.
 2. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the conflict resolution system allows the supervisor to select to resolve conflicts according to either the most restrictive or the least restrictive resolution.
 3. Apparatus according to claim 1 further including means to display a status listing of programs or channels unblocked and the corresponding time periods according to the instructions and, in the event of conflicts between multiple instructions, further according to the conflict resolution.
 4. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the video signal processing system for producing an output signal comprises a television receiver, cable box, or a video cassette recorder (VCR) tuner.
 5. System for controlling viewing or recording of television programs by a supervisor comprising (A) establishing a first set of ratings, spending, and/or view time limits, (B) establishing a conflict resolution system, (C) receiving override instructions from a supervisor which specify one or more permitted television programs, one or more permitted channels to be unblocked for one or more specific time periods, modified view time limits, and/or a revised ratings range for one or more specific time periods, (C) blocking viewing or recording of television programs outside of the first set of limits as modified by the override instructions and, in the event of conflicts between multiple override instructions, resolving the conflicts according to the conflict resolution system.

6. System according to claim 5 wherein the conflict resolution system can be preset by the supervisor to resolve conflicts according to the most restrictive resolution or the least restrictive resolution.
7. A processor which normally blocks viewing of programs or recordings outside a viewer profile entered by a supervisor, which permits or denies viewing of programs according to temporary override(s) instructions entered by the supervisor, which returns to normal blocking profile after expiration of a time period set by the supervisor, or by removal of the override(s) by the supervisor, or after completion of the programs or recordings permitted in the temporary override(s) instructions, and which resolves conflicts between multiple override instructions according to a preset prioritization.

add A² →

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